12

AHH, SANTA.

THIS YEAR,

I DON'T NEED THE GAMES I ALWAYS WISH FOR.

NEKO バトル

I'LL EVEN HOLD BACK ON EATING THE CANDY IN THE STOCKINGS,

FRIED CHICKEN

AND CHOCOLATE CAKE.

SO PLEASE,

LET ME SEE SERA

ON CHRISTMAS.

MENO

MERRY CHRISTMAS

ピロン♪

My shift is over.

TASUKU-CHAN.

ポン♪

SERA!

...AH...

ABOUT THAT.

So close...

YOU HAVE TOMORROW OFF, RIGHT!?

SORRY...

EHHHH!?

YOU'RE WOR-KING!?

THAT'S WHY I SAID MIGHT.

YOU TOLD ME YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO CHANGE YOUR SCHEDULE

SO THAT YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO COME HERE FOR CHRISTMAS TOMORROW!

YOU...

IT WAS NEVER A SURE THING.

TRICKED ME!

YOU

IT'S HARD TO CALM HER DOWN ONCE SHE'S LIKE THIS..

TASUKU-CHAN'S NEW FAVORITE PHRASE.

Flail //

TASUKU-CHA...

キン

キーン

THERE IT IS. "YOU TRICKED ME."

TH...

YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD ME YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO COME IN THE FIRST PLACE!

WHAT'S WITH THAT!?

YOU GOT MY HOPES UP!

TASUKU-CHAN...

IF YOU USED "MIGHT" THAT WAY, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN MY HOPES UP...

DON'T BE SELFISH...

YOU'RE THE ONE BEING SELFISH!

THAT'S HOW WORK IS.

TH... THAT CAN'T BE HELPED.

YOU STARTED WORKING AND MOVED FAR AWAY.

I NEVER AGREED TO IT!

WHAT THE HELL?

Not showing it on her face because Tasuku can see her.

I'VE BEEN WORKING MY ASS OFF TRYING TO GET SOME DAYS OFF.

BUT I CAN'T HELP IT WHEN MY DEADLINE CHANGED.

IT'S HARD TO GET A DAY OFF ON CHRISTMAS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

ADULTS...

ARE SUCH LIARS!

BUT EVEN SO, FOR TASUKU-CHAN'S SAKE...

YOU SAY FAR AWAY, BUT IT ONLY TAKES AN HOUR BY EXPRESS TRAIN TO GET THERE.

IT'S REALLY NO BIG DEAL.

KIDS REALLY HAVE IT EASY...

Ta-

That face you're making!

TASUKU-CHAN!?

I'm on my way there!

WHAT'S THE MATTER!?

IT'S FAR AWAY...

NOT A BIG DEAL...

THAT'S RIGHT.

SHE'S GOOD AT TALKING, BUT SHE'S JUST IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

TH...

Not that I know anything about either of them...

IS LIKE GOING FROM THE NETHERLANDS TO ALASKA...

2 HOURS FOR AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLER

...TASUKU-CHAN.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, I WAS THE ONE WHO FELL FOR TASUKU-CHAN WHO'S A CHILD.

...

HEY.

RAISE YOUR HEAD.

TASUKU-CHAN.

...

TASUKU-CHAN. I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY, ALRIGHT?

ALRIGHT?

NEXT TIME WE MEET,

I'LL GIVE YOU PLENTY OF PATS.

LET'S

W...

WELL, IT'S FINE.

WHEN CAN YOU COME?

THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW? OR THE DAY AFTER THAT?

EH?

...SO?

SOOOO CUUUTE

I'M NOT CHILDISH.

I'M THINKING NEW YEAR'S.

NEW

NEW YEARSSSS!?

I... IT'S ONLY A WEEK LONGER?

YOU TRICKED MEEEE!

THAT'S SO FAR AWAY!

SHE'S LOST HER HUMAN FORM.

ドウルルル

HOW MANY DAYS DO YOU THINK ARE IN A WEEK!?

CAN'T YOU COUNT!?

SHE'S AT IT AGAIN.

I DON'T WANT IT!

TASUKU-CHAN.

I'LL GIVE YOU A CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

ONE WEEK ISN'T A BIG...

AH.

DON'T SAY THAT...

...BEFORE YOU LEFT, YOU TOLD ME YOU WOULD COME AND VISIT ME A LOT.

!!

?

...

SERA, YOU'RE SUCH A LIAR.

...!

TASUKU-CHAN.

...

I JUST WANT TO SEE YOU.

TA...

TASUKU-CHA...

I DON'T CARE ABOUT CHRISTMAS.

I'VE HAD ENOUGH.

TA... TASUKU-CHAN WAS CRYING...

ぽかーん...

SHE DOESN'T EVEN CRY WHEN SHE SEES A BUG OR A GHOST,

OR EVEN WHEN WATCHING A MOVIE THAT BROUGHT ALL OF AMERICA TO TEARS...

A... A will o' the wisp...!?

It's so pretty

Aggh!

Sera, I found a grass-hopper

MUNCH MUNCH

Sob...

...

TASUKU-CHAN...

ぎゅ...

AND SO CHRISTMAS ARRIVED.

PANT

MERRY

TASUKU, YOU'RE NOT EATING?

ダラ

ダラ

N... NO, I'M NOT...

PANT

MY WISH DIDN'T COME TRUE,

SO MAYBE IT'S FINE FOR ME TO EAT.

I PROMISED SANTA I WOULDN'T.

BUT...

EH!?

DOES YOUR STOMACH HURT!?

...

WHAT IS IT?

A DELIVERY?

Ding dong

I THINK I'LL...

TASUKU.

FIIINE...

HEY, TASUKU.

YOU'RE STANDING SO GET THE DOOR.

EHHHH!?

I was just about to start eating.

ガチャ…

WHO IS IT?

10.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

YOUR PRESENT!

SE...

I HEARD THAT THERE WAS A GOOD GIRL HERE.

Hohoho

SO SANTA CAME!

Ta-

TASUKU-CHAN...

IT'S EMBARRASSING WHEN YOU DON'T REACT...

U-UM...

.....
.....

THE MOUS-TACHE?

...WHAT IS THAT...?

Instant Santa☆

SO I GOT COTTON BY TEARING A CUSHION!

This is the only red clothing I have!

I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING WHITE AND FLUFFY,

...DIDN'T I TELL YOU I WOULD GIVE YOU A PRESENT?

...WHY? WHY ARE YOU HERE?

WHAT ABOUT WORK?

YOU...

もふっ

YOU TRICKED MEEEEE.

WOAH.

WELL,

Waaaaaaah

YOU TRICKED MEEEE!

...WHATEVER.

I'LL HAVE TO WORK OVERTIME AND PULL AN ALL-NIGHTER. ★

ぽんぽん

I ALSO GOT TO HEAR

THE WORDS I WANTED TO HEAR.

fin.

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